

## REMARKS

Claims 9-45 are pending in the application. The Examiner objects to claims 16, 18, 24, 25, 31-33, 37 and 39-43. Claims 9-15, 17, 19-23, 26-30, 34-36, 44 and 45 stand rejected. Independent method claim 36 is amended to clarify the role of the controller in the packaging. Support for the amendment can be found in independent apparatus claim 1 and in the description as originally filed at page 13, lines 21-24. No new matter is added. The Examiner's objections and rejections are addressed below in substantially the same order as in the office action.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 102**

Claims 9-15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 26-28, 30,34,-36, 44 and 45 are rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. (US 6,305,223). Applicant respectfully traverses, because the Examiner has failed to present a prima facie case of anticipation.

Independent claim 9 and method claim 36 are each directed to packaging a sensor package. Each claim includes the structural limitation of a controller coupled to a housing and the controller controls the sensor module.

Contrary to the Examiner's conclusion, Matsumoto et al. does not teach a controller controlling the sensor module. The cited portion of the description at column 8, lines 10-11 teaches that "(t)he acceleration sensor is adapted to be mounted on a control unit of an air bag system or the like...and the sensor detects acceleration..." Then at column 9, lines 31-44, the reference states "Referring to FIG. 16, the air bag system is composed of an acceleration sensor 1801 for detecting acceleration of collision of a vehicle, a microcomputer 1802 for computing the magnitude of the collision from an output from the acceleration sensor 1801 and determining whether or not an air bag should be expanded, and a drive circuit 1803 for amplifying an output from the microcomputer 1802 to drive the air bag (output E)."

It is clear that the '223 reference teaches a capacitive accelerometer for use in an automotive airbag deployment system. The accelerometer discussed in the reference is coupled to a processor that converts the accelerometer output to signals used by a controller to determine when a crash has occurred. Nothing suggests that a controller controls a sensor module as claimed is independent claims 9 and 36. Applicant submits that a capacitive accelerometer for use in an air bag is used to measuring accelerations of several G's, and thus does not require feedback control. Therefore, it is improper for the Examiner to read Applicants disclosure of a packaged controlled accelerometer into the reference that mentions nothing about controlling the sensor with the controller.

Regarding the Examiner's conclusion that the reference teaches a substrate having slots. Applicant has reviewed the reference and cannot find justification for the Examiner's conclusion that elements 1601-1603 are mounted in slots as claimed. The reference clearly states that these elements 1601-1603 are "mounted **on** the ceramic substrate 1604" (emphasis added). See column 9, line 2. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the reference does not teach a substrate having slots for receiving sensor packages as claimed in independent claim 9 and independent claim 36.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

### **REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103**

Claims 21, 23, and 29 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al. (US 6,305,223). Applicant respectfully traverses, because the Examiner has not presented a prima facie case of obviousness. Matsumoto does not teach and every element of the rejected claims as arranged in the claims such that the claims would be obvious to one skilled in the art.

The rejected claims depend have independent claim 9 as a base claim. Thus, each rejected claim includes the elements of independent claim 9 discussed above in detail. The reference does not teach "a sensor module within the housing, the sensor module including a plurality of sensor packages coupled to a substrate having slots for receiving the sensor packages, each sensor package having an axis of sensitivity positioned in a different spatial direction; and a control circuit coupled to the housing for controlling the sensor module." Therefore, Applicant respectfully

requests withdrawal of the rejection.

### **ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

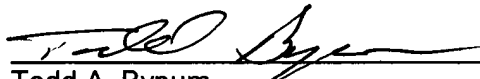
Applicant appreciates that the Examiner considers claims 16, 18, 24, 25, 31-33 allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. However, Applicant requests reconsideration of the claims in dependent form in view of the above arguments.

### **CONCLUSION**

For all the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the application is in a condition for allowance. A check in the amount of (\$1,020.00) is submitted herewith for payment associated with the Request for Extension of Time accompanying this response. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. **13-0010 (IO-1013US)**.

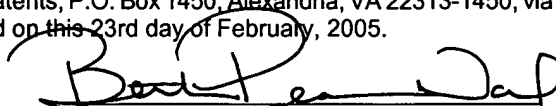
Respectfully submitted,

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### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this paper, along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed, is being mailed to the Attention: MS: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, via the United States Postal Service, First Class Mail, postage prepaid on this 23rd day of February, 2005.

  
Beth Pearson-Naul